

Issue NE-CW3604, released September 7, 2004, by the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA . For more information contact us at: 100 Centennial Mall North, Suite 298, Lincoln, NE 68508, 402-437-5541 or e-mail at nass-ne@nass.usda.gov. Homepage - <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>.

Agricultural Summary: For the week ending September 5, 2004, crops moved toward maturity but at a slower than normal pace, according to USDA’s Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Above normal temperatures and wind conditions last week continued to stress dryland crops. Producer activities included cutting silage, preparing for fall harvest, fall wheat seeding, and harvesting alfalfa.

Weather Summary: Temperatures for the week averaged from 2 to 7 degrees above normals. Precipitation occurred across most of the state. Most stations reported amounts of less than one-half inch although many Panhandle stations reported amounts greater than one inch.

**Soil Moisture and Days Suitable:
Nebraska, Week Ending September 5, 2004**

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
Topsoil				
Very Short	33	29	58	40
Short	38	43	30	32
Adequate	29	28	12	27
Surplus	0	0	0	1
Subsoil				
Very Short	43	41	54	43
Short	31	39	35	31
Adequate	26	20	11	25
Surplus	0	0	0	1
Days Suitable	6.8	6.1	6.7	6.2

Field Crops Report: Corn condition rated 3 percent very poor, 7 poor, 17 fair, 50 good, and 23 excellent, above last year and average. Irrigated fields rated 84 percent good and excellent while dryland fields rated 56. This compares to 73 and 10, respectively, a year ago. Ninety-four percent of the acreage had reached the dough stage, just behind last year at 96 and average at 97. Sixty-four percent had dented, behind last year at 73 and average at 80. Three percent of fields were considered mature, behind last year at 12 and average at 19.

Soybeans condition declined and rated 4 percent very poor, 12 poor, 30 fair, 44 good, and 10 excellent, still well above last year and average. Thirty-two percent of the acreage was turning color, same as last year but behind average at 40. Plants had dropped leaves on 7 percent of the acreage, behind last year at 8 and average at 13.

Sorghum condition declined and rated 5 percent very poor, 13 poor, 38 fair, 37 good, and 7 excellent, still well above last year and average. Ninety-eight percent had headed out, ahead of last year at 93 and average at 97. Fields were showing color on 37 percent of the acreage, behind last year at 47 and average at 60. Two percent of the acreage was mature, same as last year but behind average at 10.

Dry bean conditions declined and rated 6 percent very poor, 15 poor, 25 fair, 43 good, and 11 excellent. Twenty-five percent

had turned color, well behind last year at 67 and average at 69. Ten percent had dropped leaves, well behind last year at 29 and average at 40. Four percent were harvested, behind 6 last year and 13 average.

Proso millet harvest was 6 percent complete, well behind last year at 28.

Wheat seeding was 8 percent planted to date. Near last year at 9 and average at 6.

Alfalfa conditions rated 13 percent very poor, 20 poor, 28 fair, 32 good, and 7 excellent, above last year and average. Third cutting activities progressed to 87 percent complete, behind last year and average at 92. Fourth cutting activities were 8 percent harvested, behind last year at 11 and average at 14.

**Crop Progress:
Nebraska, Week Ending September 5, 2004**

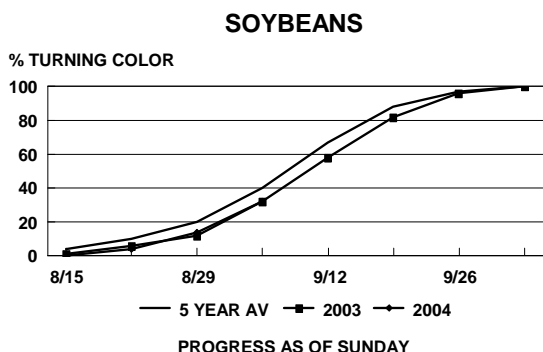
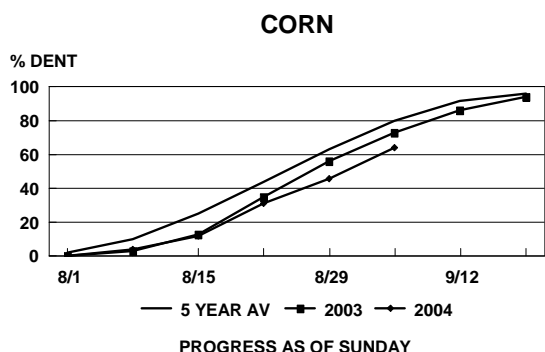
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
Alfalfa 4 th Cutting	8	2	11	14
Alfalfa 3 rd Cutting	87	82	92	92
Corn Dough	94	92	96	97
Corn Dent	64	46	73	80
Corn Mature	3	1	12	19
Sorghum Headed	98	93	93	97
Sorghum Turning Color	37	26	47	60
Sorghum Mature	2	0	2	10
Soybeans Turning Color	32	14	32	40
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	7	2	8	13
Wheat Seeded	8	1	9	6

**Crop Condition:
Nebraska, Week Ending September 5, 2004**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
<i>Percent</i>					
Alfalfa	13	20	28	32	7
Corn	3	7	17	50	23
Sorghum	5	13	38	37	7
Soybeans	4	12	30	44	10

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report: Pasture and range condition rated 16 percent very poor, 27 poor, 30 fair, 26 good, and 1 excellent, but remained above a year ago and average. Dusty conditions were becoming a problem in feedlots.

This release is based on data from FSA county directors, county extension educators, NOAA, and the High Plains Climate Center. County comments and reports can be found at: http://www.nass.usda.gov/ne/cropwthr/cmts_cur.htm. For those receiving an e-mail text version of this publication, a complete version including crop progress charts and precipitation maps can be found at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ne/cropwthr/2004.htm>.



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PRESORTED STANDARD
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SE	Minden	91	52	75	+5	150	2311	2030
	Red Cloud	93	55	75	+7	160	2660	2706
	Beatrice	91	55	74	+4	159	2681	2939
	Clay Center	89	53	72	+4	148	2469	2703
	Nemaha	90	60	75	+5	169	2776	2947

Source: High Plains Climate Center.